



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **CANADIAN MAN SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS FOR SMUGGLING MORE THAN 1 MILLION ECSTASY TABLETS**

*Also found guilty of being Drug Ringleader*

DETROIT—A Canadian citizen was sentenced Tuesday to 288 months, three years probation, and a \$1400 penalty for smuggling more than one million ecstasy tablets into the United States, announced Eastern District of Michigan U.S. Attorney Steven J. Murphy and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz.

Chanh Chan Lao, 36, a Canadian citizen born in Vietnam, was found guilty in November by a federal jury after a six-day trial for violating 14 counts of federal law.

Lao was apprehended in November 2003 attempting to smuggle more than one million ecstasy pills, aka MDMA, equal to 70 kilograms, into the United States. Lao was also found guilty of being the leader of a drug organization.



ICE special agents initiated the investigation into this large-scale ecstasy smuggling organization in August 2001. The investigation subsequently led to identifying Lao as the primary supplier of several ecstasy smuggling organizations.

"I commend the efforts of U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement along with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Canadian Customs for their hard work and dedication to this case," stated Murphy. "Yesterday's sentencing demonstrates how the coordination of law enforcement resources and intelligence is crucial in combating drug trafficking."

"ICE will continue to pursue the leaders of smuggling organizations who attempt to violate our laws, such as the one led by Lao," said Moskowitz, who heads the ICE Detroit Office of Investigations for Michigan and Ohio.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Canadian Customs, and the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team provided investigative assistance. Assistant U. S. Attorney Michael Hluchaniuk prosecuted the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*